



Adult Education in Cochise County

Fiscal Year 2002

Adult Education is the delivery of literacy services to people 16 years of age and older who are not enrolled in a K-12 school. It includes:

- **Adult Basic Education:** instruction in reading, writing, and math to the 8th grade
- **Adult Secondary Education:** instruction in reading, writing, math, science and social studies; may lead to the attainment of an alternative high school diploma
- **English for Speakers of Other Languages**
- **Citizenship Test Preparation**

The Need for Adult Education In Cochise County

In Cochise County, **18,077*** out-of-school adults do not have a high school diploma or GED; **4,519*** adults cannot communicate effectively in the English language.

*Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; Federal Adult Literacy Estimates, 1996

In Arizona, only providers who meet rigorous standards and produce positive student outcomes are funded. Cochise College is the program certified to provide adult education throughout Cochise County

Adult Education dollars allocated by the Arizona Department of Education to Cochise County in FY2002:

Federal dollars:	\$225,000
State dollars:	\$225,000

Cochise County Adult Education Data for Fiscal Year 2002

- **1,041 adults enrolled in Adult Education classes**
- **82,172 instructional hours were provided in Adult Education classes**
- **\$5.48 was the total cost per instructional hour for Adult Education**
- **\$432.28 was the total annual cost per Adult Education student**
(compared to over \$5,000 per K – 12 student)
- **520 of 985 students (53%) improved more than two grade levels**
- **131 of 170 students (77%) who sought a GED obtained their high school equivalency diploma**
- **31 of 31 students (100%) who sought a job found employment**
- **1 of 1 students (100%) who sought to retain their job or improve their employment were successful**
- **26 of 27 students (96%) who wanted to enter post-secondary education or training went on to further education**

Family Literacy in Cochise County

Fiscal Year 2002

Arizona Family Literacy provides comprehensive literacy programs to families who have Cochise County's lowest incomes (**90% have incomes under \$25,000**), lowest levels of adult literacy, and who have one or more preschool-aged children. Arizona Family Literacy programs integrate literacy instruction into six service components:

- **Early Childhood Education**
- **Adult Basic Education**
- **Parent Involvement Education**
- **Parent-child Literacy Activities**
- **Community Service/Volunteering**
- **Home-based Instruction**

Family Literacy Services must be of **sufficient intensity and duration** to make sustainable changes in the family including: **preparing the child to enter kindergarten ready to learn**, and **supporting the parents in their role as their child's first and most influential teacher**.

During the 2001-2002 program year, **71% of the children made significant language gains while 60% of the five year olds showed "readiness for kindergarten"**. Because of the intensity of the programming, 76% of Family Literacy parents improved more than two grade levels.

Cochise County Family Literacy Fiscal Year 2002

- **Leveraging state family literacy funds with federal Even Start dollars enabled one program to operate two Family Literacy sites**
- **33 families (over 60 people) were served throughout Cochise County**
- **Parents contributed 1,517 community service hours, which equals \$7,813 of in-kind benefits to the community (based on \$5.15 per hour, minimum wage)**
- **Parents studied English or worked toward their GED Diploma while their children attended the program's early childhood or school-based classes**

GED Testing in Cochise County

Fiscal Year 2002

What is the GED and why is it important to our community?

The General Educational Development (GED) Test is a five-part, seven-hour exam in reading, writing, science, social studies, and mathematics. Across the nation, one-third of graduating seniors receiving traditional diplomas cannot pass the GED. Research has shown that compared to students with no diploma, students with a GED experience significant improvement in income level and are more likely to become involved in the educational experience of their children.

More than 15,000 students in Arizona take the GED Test annually. There is no Federal or State allocation to fund the processing of GED diplomas or transcripts. The cost of these vital unfunded mandates is taken from the state's adult education allocation.

333 High School Equivalency Diplomas were issued in Cochise County